The Status of the Claims

1.   (Previously presented) A network interface unit for communicating data packets over at least one non-secure network between client devices on at least one local area network (LAN) and a secure virtual private network (VPN) comprising

means for directly connecting to said at least one LAN,

means for connecting to said at least one non-secure network,

means for authenticating at least one of said client devices seeking to access said VPN, thereby establishing at least one authenticated client device,

a configuration server for sending configuration information to said at least one authenticated client device,

a GUI server for presenting at least one menu to at least selected authenticated client device

means for receiving at least a first message reflecting selections from said at least one menu, and

means for accessing said at least one non-secure network using information in said at least a first message, and

a security server for establishing a secure connection over said non-secure network between said LAN and said access node.

2.   (Original) The network interface unit of claim 1 wherein said configuration server comprises a memory for storing configuration information for at least one client device, and means for retrieving configuration information for at least selected ones of said client devices from said memory upon subsequent authentication of said at least one client device.

3.   (Original) The network interface unit of claim 2 wherein said configuration information for each authenticated client device comprises information received on behalf of each of said client devices upon an initial authenticating of respective ones of said client devices.

4.   (Original) The network interface unit of claim 3 wherein at least one of said client devices is a computer, and wherein said information received on behalf of a client device is received from one of said computers.

5.   (Original) The network interface unit of claim 4 wherein said information received on behalf of a first computer is received from said first computer.

6.   (Previously presented) The network interface unit of claim 1 wherein said configuration information for each authenticated client comprises information related to connections to said at least one non-secure network.

7.   (Previously presented) The network interface unit of claim 6 wherein said information related to a connections to said at least one non-secure network comprises information relating to at least one dial-up connection.

8.   (Original) The network interface unit of claim 7 wherein said information related to at least one dial-up connection comprises information relating to at least one customized dial-up connection, said information relating to each of said customized dial-up

connections comprising a customized dial-up string of characters to control a dial-up modem connection to said non-secure network.

9.   (Previously presented) The network interface unit of claim 6 wherein said information related to connections to said at least one non-secure network comprises information relating to at least one connection having a fixed IP address.

10.   (Previously presented) The network interface unit of claim 6 wherein said information related to connections to said at least one non-secure network comprises information relating to at least one connection having a temporary IP address.

11.   (Original) The network interface unit of claim 10 further comprising a DHCP server for providing said temporary IP address.

12.   (Previously presented) The network interface unit of claim 10 further comprising a DHCP client for obtaining a temporary IP address from said at least one non-secure network and providing said temporary IP address for use in said connection.

13.   (Previously presented) The network interface unit of claim 6 wherein said information related to connections to said at least one non-secure network comprises information relating to at least one point-to-point over Ethernet (PPPoE) connection.

14.   (Original) The network interface unit of claim 2 wherein said memory comprises a removable memory module.

15.   (Original) The network interface unit of claim 14 wherein said removable memory module stores additional information comprising web pages for presentation by said GUI server.

16.   (Original) The network interface unit of claim 1 wherein said means for authenticating comprises means for comparing client ID and password information received from a client device with information stored at said network interface unit.

17-20. (Cancelled).